

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RESOLVING THAT THE STATE OF IDAHO  
2 RECOGNIZES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAWTOOTH NATIONAL RECREATION ACT  
3 AND CELEBRATES THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT IDAHOANS HAVE MADE TO PROTECT AND  
4 APPRECIATE THIS ICONIC LANDSCAPE IN IDAHO.  
5

6 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 WHEREAS, Congress approved the Sawtooth National Recreation Act on Au-  
8 gust 22, 1972, to preserve its natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and fish  
9 and wildlife values and to enhance recreation activities on the land within;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area was dedicated to the  
12 people of Idaho and the United States on September 1, 1972; and

13 WHEREAS, Idaho's former U.S. senators Frank Church and Len Jordan  
14 served as the authors and sponsors and shepherded the bill through the U.S.  
15 Senate; and

16 WHEREAS, Idaho's former U.S. representatives Orval Hansen and James Mc-  
17 Clure supported the House of Representatives' version of the bill; and

18 WHEREAS, the Sawtooth Primitive Area was designated as the Sawtooth  
19 Wilderness Area with the passage of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area  
20 Act; and

21 WHEREAS, the Hemingway-Boulders, Cecil D. Andrus-White Clouds, and Jim  
22 McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness areas were designated pursuant to the Saw-  
23 tooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act in  
24 2015; and

25 WHEREAS, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area consists of 756,000  
26 acres, including more than 700 miles of hiking trails, and more than 300  
27 high-elevation alpine lakes, providing recreational opportunities for hik-  
28 ing, backpacking, fishing, boating, canoeing, rafting, wildlife watching,  
29 OHV riding, snowmobiling, photography, hunting, and bicycling to Idahoans  
30 and visitors from around the world; and

31 WHEREAS, the protections established by Congress have permitted mil-  
32 lions of Americans to enjoy the natural beauty of the Sawtooth National  
33 Recreation Area and have resulted in additional visitation and tourism that  
34 contribute significantly to Idaho's economy; and

35 WHEREAS, Idaho's river outfitters and guides rely on the intact habi-  
36 tats and clean water within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, which  
37 contribute significantly toward the economy of rural communities in the re-  
38 gion; and

39 WHEREAS, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area includes the Sawtooth,  
40 White Cloud, Boulder, Pioneer, and Smoky mountain ranges, providing vital  
41 habitat, seasonal ranges, and migration corridors for ungulates, as well as  
42 ample hunting opportunities; and

1           WHEREAS, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area provides important  
2 habitat for steelhead, Snake River sockeye salmon, Chinook salmon, and  
3 multiple species of trout, including bull trout, which are important for  
4 recreational and tribal fisheries alike; and

5           WHEREAS, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area is home to the headwa-  
6 ters of the Big Wood, Salmon, Boise, and Payette rivers; and

7           WHEREAS, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have developed the Pettit Lake  
8 Weir facility to promote recovery of sockeye salmon; and

9           WHEREAS, sockeye salmon are tied to the history of the Shoshone-Bannock  
10 Tribes and are an integral part of their history and culture; and

11           WHEREAS, sockeye salmon migrate more than 900 miles from the Pacific  
12 Ocean to the headwaters of the Sawtooth Basin, marking one of the longest  
13 fish migrations in the United States; and

14           WHEREAS, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area provides significant  
15 economic benefits to local communities, many of which are almost solely de-  
16 pendent on visitors to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area; and

17           WHEREAS, the State of Idaho recognizes the dedicated effort of the U.S.  
18 Forest Service and countless volunteers for 50 years of work to maintain the  
19 integrity and preservation of the land, water, and wildlife in the Sawtooth  
20 National Recreation Area; and

21           WHEREAS, the State of Idaho encourages the federal government to work  
22 with state partners and stakeholders to resolve potential disputes associ-  
23 ated with the management of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area in a trans-  
24 parent and collaborative manner.

25           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular  
26 Session of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives  
27 and the Senate concurring therein, that the State of Idaho recognizes the  
28 50th anniversary of the Sawtooth National Recreation Act and celebrates the  
29 contributions that Idahoans have made to protect and appreciate this iconic  
30 landscape in Idaho.

31           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal land management agencies with  
32 responsibility over Idaho's Sawtooth National Recreation Area direct ade-  
33 quate financial resources and expertise to ensure the ongoing protection,  
34 management, utilization, and enjoyment of this designated national recre-  
35 ation area in Idaho.